

Message Text

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TAGS: IAEA PARM TECH

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON PHYSICAL SECURITY
OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL

REF: STATE 218309

1. MISSION BELIEVES IT NOT ESSENTIAL SEEK A UN
RESOLUTION CALLING ON IAEA TO DRAFT CONVENTION ON
PHYSICAL SECURITY NUCLEAR MATERIALS, UNLESS, AS HAS
APPARENTLY HAPPENED IN CASE OF PNES, PURPOSE OF RESOLUTION
WAS TO WARD OFF THREATENED PROLIFERATION OF EXPERT
PANELS, STUDY GROUPS, ETC., WHICH MIGHT EMERGE IN UNGA
CONTEXT.

2. DEPT WILL RECALL THAT IN HIS SPEECH TO THE GENERAL
CONFERENCE SEPT 16, DG EKLUND ACKNOWLEDGED NEED FOR
IAEA TO DO MORE IN GIVING GUIDANCE TO MEMBERS RE
PHYSICAL SECURITY WITHIN STATES AND DURING INTERNATIONAL
TRANSPORT. AGENCY HAS SCHEDULED A MEETING OF PANEL
OF EXPERTS IN MAY 1975 TO UPDATE ITS 1972 "RECOM-
MENDATIONS FOR THE PHYSICAL PROTECTION OF NUCLEAR
MATERIAL." MISSION HAS ALSO LEARNED THAT AGENCY STAFF

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IS WORKING QUIETLY ON CONTENTS OF A PROPOSED INTER-

NATIONAL CONVENTION ON SECURITY DURING INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT. WITH ENCOURAGEMENT FROM USG, WE FEEL AGENCY WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONVENE A GROUP OF EXPERTS TO DRAFT SUCH A CONVENTION, AND TO CONSIDER SPEEDING UP TIME-TABLE.

3. MISSION ALSO SUGGEST REAFFIRMATION BY USG IN APPROPRIATE UN DEBATE, OF NEED FOR WORLD CONCERN IN THE QUESTION OF PHYSICAL SECURITY, SUPPORTED BY SIMILAR STATEMENTS BY OTHER LIKE-MINDED GOVTS, WOULD BE DESIRABLE. ONE OPPORTUNITY WILL PRESENT ITSELF ON NOV. 4, WHEN DG EKLUND ADDRESSES GENERAL ASSEMBLY. USG, IN ITS TRADITIONAL COMMENTS FOLLOWING EKLUND'S SPEECH, COULD RESTATE ITS POSITION AND ENDORSE EKLUND'S SUGGESTIONS THAT IAEA DO MORE. ALTHOUGH TIME IS SHORT, PERHAPS OTHERS (SWEDEN, GERMANY, HOLLAND, UK, AUSTRALIA ARE LOGICAL CANDIDATES) COULD BE BROUGHT TO JOIN IN. WE ARE ATTEMPTING SECURE DRAFT OF EKLUND UNGA SPEECH, AND WILL URGE HE MAKE A GOOD STATEMENT ON THIS POINT. HE WILL BE IN NEW YORK NEXT WEEK.

4. WE HAVE NOT CONSULTED RECENTLY WITH OTHER MISSIONS ON THE PHYSICAL SECURITY QUESTION, BUT WOULD ANTICIPATE USG COULD, WITH SOME ADVANCE WORK IN CAPITALS, SECURE SUPPORT FOR A BOARD OF GOVERNORS RESOLUTION TO ACCELERATE IAEA'S WORK, IF SUCH A PUSH IS INDEED NEEDED. WE THINK WORK COULD BEST BE CARRIED OUT HERE BY WORKING GROUPS OR PANELS, AND NOT AN UNWIELDY COMMITTEE, UNLESS THERE IS AN OVERWHELMING DEMAND FROM MEMBER STATES FOR BROADER PARTICIPATION.

5. WE WOULD PREFER SUBMIT VIEWS ON SUBSTANCE (PARA 4 REFTEL) AFTER WE ARE ABLE TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL AND IAEA STAFF. PORTER

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